



**Ravenna City Council
Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2021**

The public meeting was held in Council Chambers and live streamed via YouTube at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzMDE2JLEtc>

Council present: Council President Andrew Kluge, Amy Michael, Rob Kairis, Paul Moskun, Cheryl Wood, Tim Calfee, Christina West, and Matt Harper.

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Frank Seman; Law Director, Frank Cimino; Finance Director, Brian Huff; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Peggy DiPaola, Donna Gray Wise, Diana Kane, David Dix, Dominic Bellino, Nick Dudek, Bill Barber, Jack Kohl, Larry Silenius; Cliff Soudil and Diane Smith

Planning Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Chairperson, Rob Kairis

The first item was the Downtown District Plan presented by Main Street Ravenna.

Mr. Kairis stated that Council received an unabridged copy of the Downtown District Plan and introduced Bill Barber who addressed Council to speak on the item.

Mr. Barber thanked the Planning Committee for allowing him to talk about the Downtown District Plan and for the City's funding and feedback towards the plan. The Plan was created by Jason Kentner and was funded by 3 major donors, adding that 85% was funded by private donors and 15% by government entities, including the City of Ravenna and Portage County. Mr. Barber explained that a lot of planning and input went into the various designs and that the ideas provide a framework for potential projects throughout the downtown area. He stated that a resolution of approval is being requested for the Plan from City Council as an official endorsement. Various members that helped bring the Plan to fruition were present to explain how the Plan is to help improve the City's curb appeal and that the Plan was to help inspire and give a base to build improvements upon. Mr. Barber stated that he will provide a draft resolution for the Committee of the Whole meeting for Council to consider.

- The item was moved forward

The second item was Design Review Commission Changes.

Mr. Kairis brought forth a series of Design Review Commission changes to present to Council for their input and approval. Ms. West stated that she agreed with some of the changes and didn't understand others. Since the subject matter was unfamiliar to Council members there were several uncertainties that needed to be clarified. Mr. Kairis stated that Kent hired a consultant to help with their Design Review Commission changes and said that he will look into how much that could cost the City. Mr. Silenius and Mr. Soudil expressed their issues with the changes. Mr. Soudil stated that Design Review Commission members should only be Ravenna residents and that currently only 3 live in the city. The changes will be forwarded to the Law Director and the item will be moved to Committee of the Whole for more clarification.

- All the items were moved forward for additional discussion at Committee of the Whole

The third item was a discussion regarding Temporary Stores, Canvassers and Solicitors and Peddlers.

Mr. Kairis explained the differences of each of the codified ordinance sections and stated that a possibility to updating them could be to combine the items since some of them overlap. He stated that there is no impending need to make the updates and that the item will be left in committee.

- The item was for discussion only

The fourth item was Offensive Signs.

Ms. Michael state that she has been getting more complaints about offensive language on flags. The Law Director stated that although the flags and signs are distasteful, they are protected by freedom of speech. Ms. Michael stated that she is frustrated for the residents within the proximity of the signs. Council discussed what could be done to eliminate the signage and the possibility of changing the regulations of size.

- The item was for discussion only

Management Update

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Rob Kairis, Chairperson
Planning Committee**